Vol. V. Numb. 59.

THE OBSERVATOR.

Of the Sailing of the Fleet. Of a Sham Account of a Victory. An Answer to a Letter sent the Observator, *relating to the Affair of* Sweden. *Of* Occasional-Conformity. Freeholders *have a Right of Voting by Virtue of their Tenure. Of Mr.* Review's *Preachment on* Peace *and* Union.

From **Saturday** October the 5th, to **Wednesday** October the 9th, 1706.

Obs. MY Honest *Country-man*, what News? *Country-m.* News, Master, Brave News; the Fleet is Sail'd; I can't tell whether, but they are all gone by Sea: We shall hear they have Bewitch'd a power of People in a little time.

But I'll tell you what. The Duke of *Marlborough* Fought the *French* again in *Flanders*, Took all their Cannon and Baggages, and Kill'd every Body; one Colonel *Moore* brought over the Express, and stopping at *Rumford* to drink a Pot, he told the *Swine-Merchants* this Story; and asking a Gentleman of *London* where the Queen was, and being told She was at *New-Market*, he went upon the Tit-up thither; but, a-lack-a-day, he and his Express, Horse and all were lost in *Epping-Forrest*, and never came to *New-Market*; but we had it Printed in *London*, and Roar'd about the Streets. Is not this a great deal of pitty?

Obs. Prithee, Man, Mr. *Proprietor* of the *Post-Boy* can make as many such Expresses as he pleases; a *Falsehood* may bring as much Profit to a *News-Proprietor* as *Truth* can do. But, *Roger*, I remember we had just such another Sham put upon us before the Battle of *Ramelly*, which shows, that our *News-Mongers*, tho' they are none of the best *Historians*, do sometimes prove good *Prophets*; and, perhaps, in a short time we may hear of such a Battle as was mention'd in those Papers.

Country-m. Now we have a spare Evening, as I may say, let us canvass these Papers; here's a whole heap of 'em, and, if you please, give me your Answer to this Letter sent you; I will Read it.

Sir, 27th of *September*, 1706.

I Am not that Person you spoke of, that wrote a Letter to you from Garraway's *Coffee-House, neither do I know him, yet I hope I am one of those you Oblig'd with your Opinion touching the Affairs of* Sweden, Poland *and* Saxony: *I have read your* Observator, *and find you a* Perfect Swede, *and that the Dethroning King* Augustus *will not satisfie your Resentments, but the Electorate of* Saxony *must feel the Effects thereof.*

Now if a New War should be kindled in those Parts upon this Occasion, it must be Imputed to the King of Sweden: *For had he Confin'd the War to* Poland *and* Muscovy, *the* Confederacy *might have Acted, and, I hope, yet will, with the same Vigour, and the Peace of the Empire continued, which this Interruption seems to Endanger both.*

And as the King of Sweden *might have had, and may yet have all Honourable Terms of Accommodation, I think he is the Aggressor, and is Answerable for all the Fatal Consequences that attend it, either in respect to the* Confederacy *in General, or those Countries that may be made the Seats of War. I perceive you don't approve of an* Occasional-Conformist, *in the Person of the King of* Poland, *and yet are against a Bill to prevent such Practices in Subjects; I would not have either the Persons or Consciencies of the* Dissenters *toucht, but yet would have 'em constrain'd to Act with that* Honesty *and* Integrity *they pretend to. If you think fit to Re-consider this Matter, it will be taken as a Particular Favour done,*

Sir,

Your Humble Servant,

C. R.

Obs. Here are several other Letters that call me a *Perfect Swede*, that by my being in the King of *Swedens Interest*, I am in the *Interest* of *France*; if to be for *Truth* and *Justice* is being a *Swede*, than I am a *Swede*; and never did a Prince make or carry on a War on better Foundations of *Justice* than the King of *Sweden* has done.

Did he Invade *Poland* or *Saxony*? No; but *Poland* and *Saxony* Invaded *Sweden*. Will you call this an Invasion of *Saxony*? When I am Robb'd, I am not confin'd to resist, and take the *Thieves* only on my own Ground, I may warrantablely pursue them to their own Doors; and what more has the King of *Sweden* done?

Does his Invading *Saxony* break the Peace of the Empire? Who can help it? If my House is beset with *Robbers*, I must Fire my Small Arms at them without any Consideration whether I shall disturb my Neighbours. How comes this mighty Alarm at the King of *Swedens* entring *Saxony* with Eighteen Thousand Men, and those that have received the Alarm could sit still and see *Sweden* Invaded by a very Numerous Army of *Poles*, *Muscovites* and *Saxons*; and if the King of *Sweden*, by the Strength of his own Troops, with the Blessing of God upon them, had not defeated that Invasion, the Empire would have been in more danger from that Strength, than from the Power of *Sweden*.

But our last Advices from the *North* assure us, That the King of *Sweden* is not that irreconcileable Prince as some People have Represented him: He has already agreed to a Cessation of Arms for Ten Weeks, and in that time an end may be put to those Differences, if the same Councils that prevented the *Peace* in *Hungary* don't a like Embarrass that Affair.

I can't help Reflecting on the Humours of the People, what an *Undigested Mass*, what an *Unweildy*, *Ill-form'd*, *Nasty* a thing the *Reason* of the Common People is dwindled to; *Tartar Emetic* is a gentle Dose to the Talk of the Citizens in Coffee-Houses, how do they rail at the

King

...g of *Sweden* for keeping up the War in the *North*, ...the Ballance of all ...? Or, a very weighty one, he ...Fears thereby ...ome Forces from being employ'd in the *Confederacy*. Very well, and does not the War in *Hungary* ...ually keep the best Troops of the *Empire* to serve against the *Malecontents*? And is not that Difference a greater Bar to the Progress of the *Confederacy* than that in the ...ing can ...

Some People speak as they are bid; some speak according as they think ...some Govern their Tongues by *Interest*, some, thout their Reals so fast that we can't distinguish who did it. But for my part I speak on the side of *Truth* and *Justice*, let the Per on be what he will that has it on his side, and that has made me Justifie the King of *Sweden* against all Opposers.

I must give this Gentleman one Word concerning *Occasional-Conformity*, or I do not fully answer his Letter. I am against *Occasional-Conformity*, and yet I am against a Bill to prevent it, that is, against such a Bill as this Gentleman means, which would have destroy'd the Birth-Rights of *Englishmen*, by debarring them from their Votes at *Elections*, on the Account of their *Non-Conformity*. Their Right of Voting is annext to their *Freehold*; it does not proceed from *Religion*, or is concerned in *Religious* Matters: A *Heathen* that has no *Religion* has yet a Right to his *Property*.

A Bill to prevent *Occasional-Conformity* would do well, and the best Bill to accomplish it would be an Act Repealing the *Sacramental Test*, *Sublata causa, tollitur Effectus. When the Cause is taken away the Effects must cease.*

Country-m. Now, Master, you speak of the Peoples Right of Voting as annext to the *Freehold*, I must tell you what King *Adam*'s Champion says on that Head, *viz. That every* Freeholder *never* had *or* hath *a Right to Vote in* Elections.

Obs. All our Histories make it out, That this was Immemorially the Right of *Englishmen*, and 'tis Evident, to this Day, that they do Vote, and that the Peoples Right of *Legislature* is Vest d in their *Representatives*, who sit in *Parliament* and make *Laws* only by Virtue of the *Electing Power* of the People that chose them; this is a plain Case.

Every *Freeholder* that Votes by Virtue of his Right by Tenure of Land, and every *Burgher* that Votes by Virtue of the *Burrough Franchise* had a Right to sit, and Personally to Act for himself, but for the conveniency of *Government*, and the ease of the *Legislature*, it was agreed by the People to Vest their Powers to others to serve for them, and who should receive Wages for such Service, which ...by degrees ...Pride and ...Corruption, attended with the ...ecessity of the People, made a Members Seat a Post of *Profit*.

If we look into times of our *Saxon Ancestors*, we shall find the Peop e assembling in a full Body, every one Representing himself and the whole Realm, before they had Delegated their Power to others: Had I some Books necessary by me to show you the Nature of the *Folkmotes* and the *Witan* of Old, they would appear to be clear *Parliaments* of Men Representing themselves and the whole Kingdom.

Country-m. Master *Review* is upon the *Scots Union* again.

Obs. I see it, *Roger*, but who ever bid him write on this Subject, he tells you and every Body else, *That the Queen has bid 'em not write against it*; this is like a *Clergyman's* Repelling Arguments against the *Service-Book*, with the Act of *Uniformity*, he speaks Safe, and others in Danger.

Country-m. You may write against it for all that: Look ye, here is the *Queens Proclamation* about the Danger of the *Church*, with this Resolution of the *Lords* in it, "That the *Church of England*, as by *Law* Establish'd, was "Rescued from the Extreamest Danger by King *William* "the Third of Glorious Memory, is now by Gods Bless- "ing, under the happy Reign of Her Majesty, in a most "Safe and Flourishing Condition; and that whosoever "goes about to Suggest and Insinuate that the *Church* is "in Danger under Her Majesties Administration, is an "Enemy to the *Queen*, the *Church*, and *Kingdom*.

Now for all this the *Rehearsal* says, *The* Church *is in Danger, that she is Insulted by her Enemies in this time of* War, *and that she will Insult again as soon as the* War *is ceased.*

Obs. Roger, did not I tell thee some People write as they are bid? *One may steal a Horse with more safety than another can look over the Hedge.*

Mr *Review* has now taken a Road in which no Body can follow him; if he will tell us what this *Union* is we shall thank him; 'tis a pretty thing without doubt, for he keeps it very close, and will let no Body know a Word of it but himself and the *Dissenters*. Won't the Voyage tempt it to send Mr. *Review* to write a little in *Scotland?*

He has been talking here about *Peace* and *Union* for Twelve Months, nothing but *Peace* and *Union*, *Rabbits* and *Onions*; a Body would not think he could to...re two poor Words at such an unmerciful Rate. Well, but he is more Pungent on the Point. *Lullaby English Babies*, it comes ...egg'd with *Poetry*, a fine *Sing-song* at the end of it, as sweet as if *Spencer* had Sung it himself.

Now I don't fall out with Mr. *Review*, let him Cook up his *Cranbe bis coctum*, I am as much for *Peace* and *Union* as any Honest Man ought to be; and what Mr. *Review* Repeats to us so often has been the Subject of Pens some Thousand of Year ago. *Vis unita fortior* has been an Old Maxim, and more is contain'd in those three Words than in three ...ore of the Modern Papers. ——— But I must have done; Mr. *Review* will oblige me in nothing, neither in *GOOD LAW*, nor with the least Account of this *UNION*.

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